



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

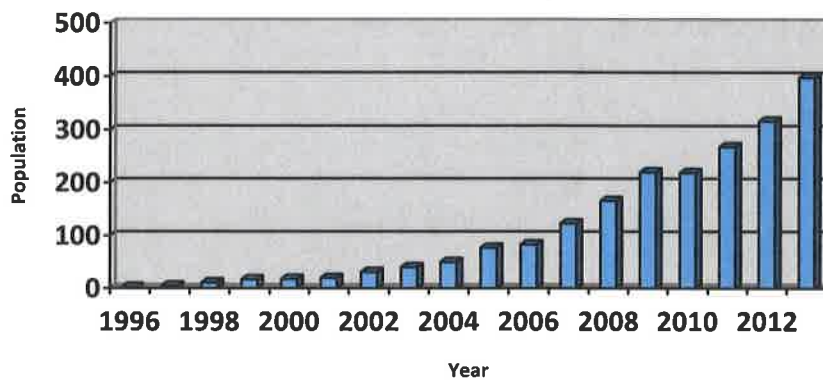
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Understanding the Challenges of HYTA Prison

HYTA Prison Sentences

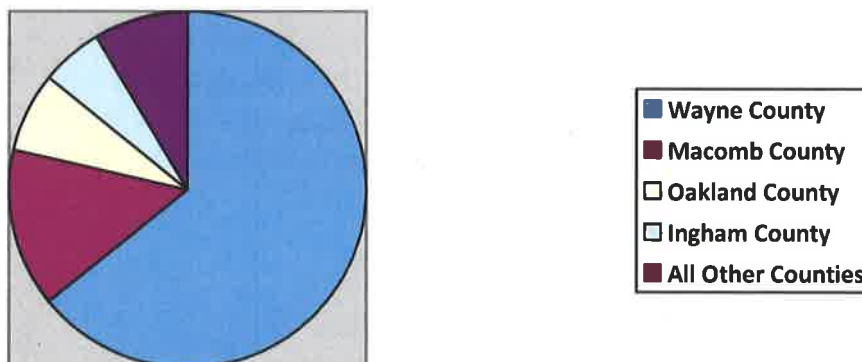
While sentencing a youthful offender to prison under the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act has been an option for decades, it was rarely utilized until 2007. That was the first year that the number of “trainees” in prison exceeded 100. In the six years since 2007, there has been a significant increase in the use of HYTA prison, with nearly 400 trainees serving in prison at the end of 2013.

HYTA Population by Year



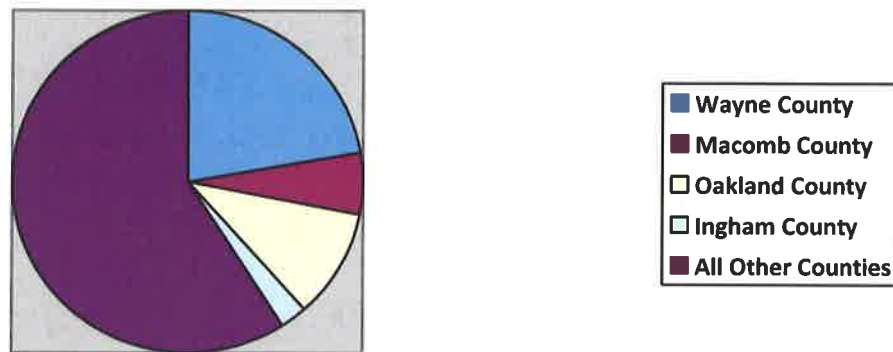
The use of HYTA prison is not consistent across the state, as over 60 counties do not utilize this sentencing option. The disparity in usage effectively shifts costs from local counties to state taxpayers.

HYTA Prison Dispositions By County



Wayne County accounts for just 22% of the felony dispositions to prison, but 65% of HYTA prison sentences. This raises significant concerns on the part of the MDOC that the County is using HYTA prison as an alternative to jail or other sanctions.

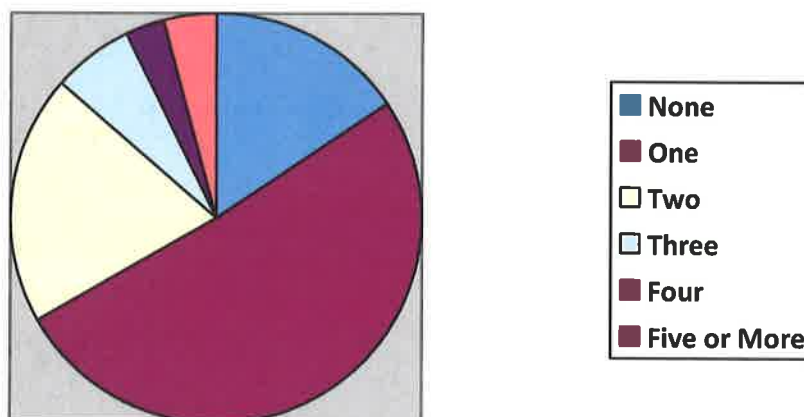
Felony Dispositions to Prison By County



First Time Offenders?

An argument often advanced in support of HYTA prison is that the offense is serious enough to warrant prison, but granting HYTA status will give the offender the opportunity to complete their sentence without a permanent record. When the MDOC conducted a review of the HYTA prison population in 2012, it determined that relatively few (16%) of these offenders receive the intended benefit of HYTA, since they already have underlying criminal histories.

Previous Felony Convictions



The Legislature has already created a means for offenders to remove a felony from their record, which is the expungement process. That process requires an offender to exhibit positive behavior for a period of 5-years after completing their sentence.